

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14-11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 /079 W
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R 110143Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6024
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4174

EO 11652: XGDS-1 (NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DECLAS DATE)

TAGS PFOR

SUBJECT: ROC-PHILIPPINES RELATIONS

1. MR. DE PERALTA, HOLDOVER CONSUL FROM THE NOW CLOSED PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HERE, CALLED ON DCM, JULY 10. STATING THATVISIT WAS "PURELY PERSONAL, INFORMAL AND UNOFFICIAL", HE REQUESTED THAT IT BE KEPT "STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL".

2. DE PERALTA SAID HE WAS NOW FACING A MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM BECAUSE THE GROC WAS DEMANDING THAT HE TURN OVER THE KEYS TO THE PHILIPPINE CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE (HOUSED IN SAME BUILDING, BUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT,CONTRARY TO ITS EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORIZING HIM TO DO SO, HAD NOW ORDERED HIM TO RETAIN THE KEYS AND TO OFFICIALLY PROTEST THE GROC DEMAND, CITING APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND POINTING OUT THAT THERE WAS NO "SUCCESSOR STATE" TO THE ROP TO WHOM THE PROPERTY COULD BE SUBSEQUENTLY HANDED OVER. THE GROC, HE ADDED, WAS ALSO DEMANDING POSSESSION OF THE EMBASSY'S OFFICIAL CARS.

3. DE PERALTA WONDERED HOW THE U.K. CONSULAR PROPERTY IN TAMSUI HAD BEEN DISPOSED OF FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE
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OF THE BRITISH FROM TAIWAN. DCM EXPLAINED THAT SINCE

U.K. CONSULATE HAD BEEN ACCREDITED TO TAIWAN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, NOT TO GROC, IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT PROVIDE A USEFUL PRECEDENT ON WHICH TO BASE A GOP CASE FOR RETENTION OF ITS PROPERTY IN TAIWAN. (FYI: LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT TAKEN OVER U.K. CONSULATE PROPERTY, BUT HAVE THUS FAR REFUSED TO RESPOND TO BRITISH REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO SELL IT. KEYS TO PREMISES ARE IN HANDS OF RESIDENT CARETAKER, FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE CONSULATE.)

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, DE PERALTA SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG HE WOULD REMAIN IN TAIPEI. GROC WAS NOT PUSHING HIM TO LEAVE AND HIS FRIENDS IN MOFA WERE CONTINUING TO DEAL WITH HIM KINDLY AND POLITELY. HE SAID HE EXPECTED JOVITE RIVERA TO ARRIVE ABOUT JULY 15, "TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS" ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NONOFFICIAL REPRESENTATION OFFICES AND HE WOULD NO DOUBT STAY ON TO ASSIST. WHEN ASKED ABOUT WHAT ISSUES REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED, DE PERALTA FUDGED, BUT SAID PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT AS SUBMITTED TO HIM. DE PERALTA SAID HE "UNDERSTOOD" PEKING HAD OBJECTED TO SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS. DE PEALTA THOUGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PEKING WAS INSISTING THAT NO FORMER MEMBERS OF EMBASSIES' STAFFS BE ALLOWED TO STAY ON IN ANY CAPACITY IN SUCCESSOR UNOFFICIAL OFFICES. PEKING WAS TAKING HARDER LINE ON THIS SCORE WITH THE PHILS THAN IT HAD WITH JAPAN.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ISSUES BLOCKING FINAL AGREEMENT ARE OF SUCH SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE THAT THEY COULD NOT BE RATHER EASILY RESOLVED ASSUMING A MODICUM OF "GIVE " ON EACH SIDE. BOTH SIDES HERE, HOWEVER, HAVE TOLD US THAT THE OTHER PARTY HAS MUCH MORE INTEREST THAN IT DOES IN CONTINUING RELATIONS ON THE SUB-DIPLOMATIC LEVEL, AND IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT THEY WILL WILLY-NILLY MANEUVER THEMSELVES INTO CORNERS FROM WHICH GRACEFUL ESCAPE WILL BE DIFFICULT.

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